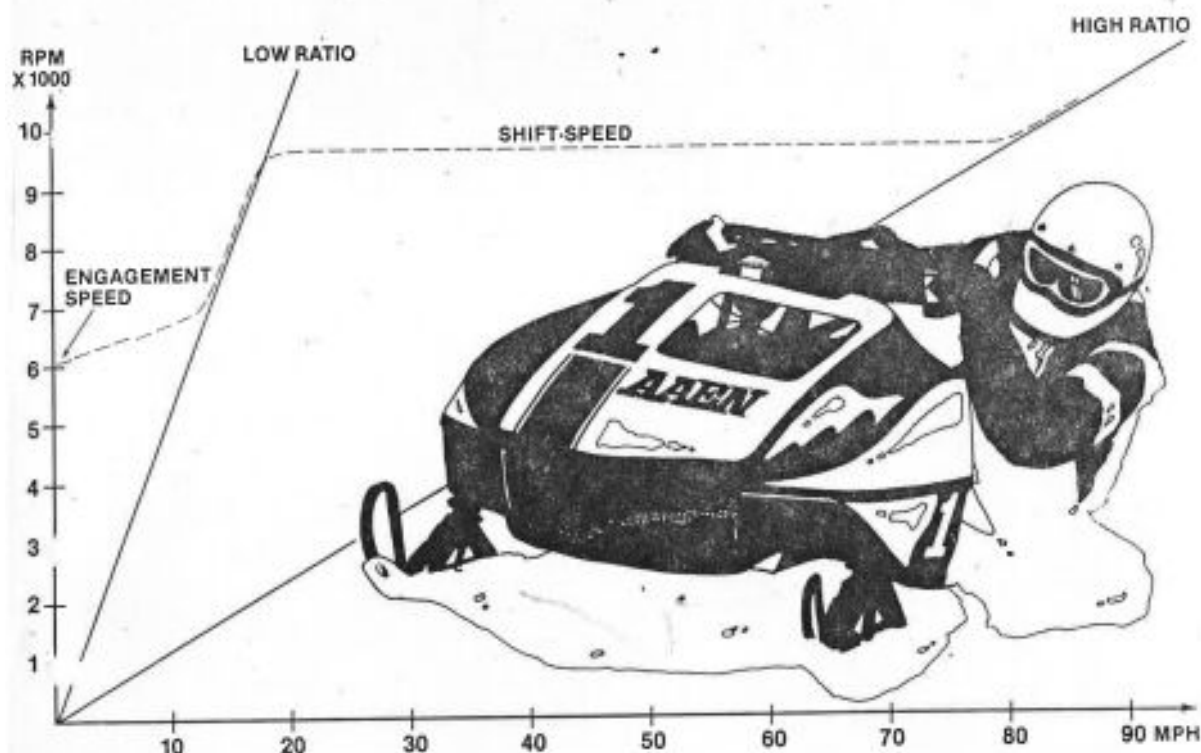


CLUTCH TUNING HANDBOOK

BY
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FOR THE SERIOUS RACER AND ANYONE
WHO WANTS MORE PERFORMANCE FROM
THEIR SNOWMOBILE BELT-TRANSMISSION

Information & Illustrations Courtesy Of:

Arctic Enterprises
Bombardier Corporation
Comet Industries
Kawasaki Motors
Polaris Industries
Yamaha International

Special thanks to Terri & Cos

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Introduction

The Automatic V-Belt Transmission is one of the most important parts in the performance of your Racer. It is the vital link in a vehicle that constantly changes speed powered by an engine which ideally should be operated at a constant speed. With the narrow power bands of the modern two-stroke racing engine, it is important that the engine is kept on the power peak and that the power is transmitted in the most efficient manner for maximum performance.

The modern V-belt transmission is, in spite of its mechanical simplicity, controlled by a number of interdependent variables, and it is only by matching these variables that the best performance is obtained from the vehicle. The purpose of this handbook is to explain the function of the transmission and the variables that influence its performance and efficiency, and to give you a testing procedure that will enable you to match your transmission to your racer's requirements. There are very few things the factory racers do, that you could not do yourself with a good tachometer, and a sound testing procedure. The two ingredients necessary to obtain an efficiently matched clutch are an understanding of the mechanism and plenty of testing.

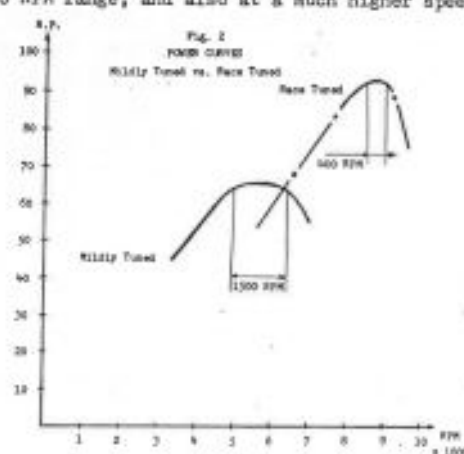
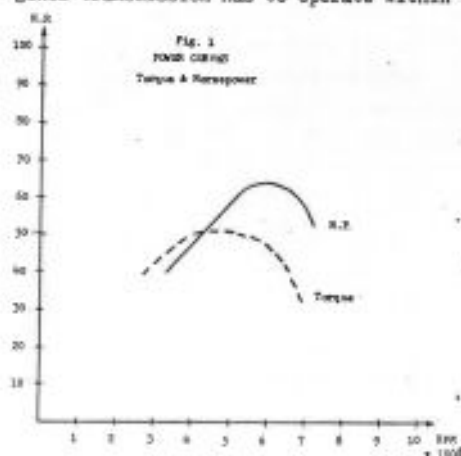
In this second and expanded edition we will go into further detail in the technical theory areas than in the previous edition. This may be a little too complicated for the beginner, but as you get further into the tuning of clutches and start looking for those extra percentages that make a winner, you will start to look into these areas and the theory may make more sense at that point. We are going into extensive detail in tuning popular clutches in the appendix and this should give the answers to most of the important questions on these models.

Power curves

The type of power your V-belt transmission is asked to transmit, has a large influence on the design of your transmissions component parts. Modern snowmobile engines are almost without exception, of the two-cycle variety with two or more cylinders. A V-belt transmissions function is to let the engine work at its power peak while the transmission changes the shift ratio as the speed of your vehicle increases. Depending on the shape of your powercurve, this may be accomplished with ease and consistency in a stock machine with relatively low power and a wide powercurve, or it may require the constant attention of a race mechanic in a high-strung race engine with high peak power and a narrow powerband. While most clutches work good with the wide powerband, it should be apparent as you go through this book that certain requirements are necessary to make a good race clutch.

Power in a two-cycle engine is a combination of the cylinder filling and the efficiency with which the combustible air-gas mix is burned in the cylinder. This produces the force on the piston which results in a momentum on the crankshaft referred to as torque. The more times this torque is produced in a given period, the more power is available. As the engine speed increases, the HP also increases until the engine goes beyond a point where it "runs out of breath." The cylinder filling and combustion efficiency then drops. When the torque production starts to drop faster than the speed increases, the resulting power will start to decline, and the engine will "fall off the power peak" as the RPM increases. In the example in Fig. 1, the torque or cylinder efficiency reaches its peak at 5,000 RPM. As it only drops off slowly to start with, the engine still peaks at 6,000 RPM before the power falls off. This represents a mildly tuned engine which would be easy to tune a transmission to. We will refer back to this curve on several occasions in future chapters.

In Fig. 2, we show the difference between a mildly tuned motor and a highly tuned race-motor of the same displacement. While the mildly tuned motor has a 1,500 RPM range in which the transmission can operate without too much change in performance, the highly tuned engines transmission has to operate within a 3-400 RPM range, and also at a much higher speed.



It becomes obvious that if an engine has been modified and the powercurve changed, the transmission has to be re-calibrated. There are many variables that control this calibration, and the object of this book is to enable you to obtain enough of an understanding of how a modern V-belt transmission works that you can perform the necessary changes to obtain maximum performance from your machine.

Speed Diagrams

Speed diagrams are powerful tools in understanding what happens to the transmission in your racer. By watching your tach and comparing it to the ideal diagram, you will be able to determine what variables to change to obtain maximum performance from your transmission. The diagrams are fairly simple to understand, as they explain everything in terms of vehicle speed and engine speed, the two functions your transmission attempts to control.

Fig. 3 shows such a diagram, with the vehicle speed in MPH on the horizontal axis, and the engine speed in RPM on the vertical axis.

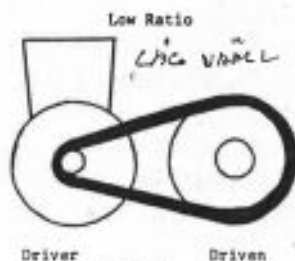
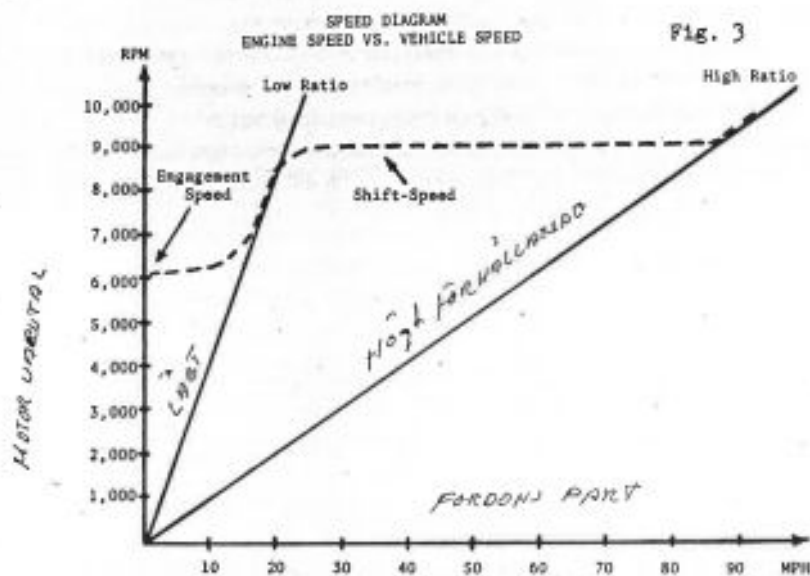


Fig. 4

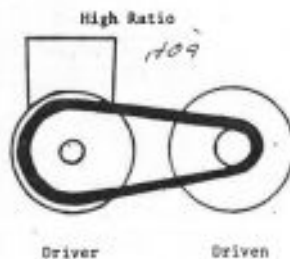


Fig. 5

The normal V-belt transmission consists of two sets of sheaves connected by a V-belt. The driving sheaves are mounted to the engine, and the driven sheaves are mounted to a shaft which drives the tracks or wheels of your racer through a chain. When the belt is at the smallest radius on the driving sheaves, and at the largest radius on the driven sheaves, the transmission is in low ratio, or low gear, which is usually around 3:1. This ratio is shown on Fig. 3 as a diagonal line. To the right of this line is another diagonal line but at a smaller angle, which represents the high ratio. High ratio, or high gear, occurs when the belt is at the largest radius on the driving sheaves, and at the smallest radius of the driven sheave, which is usually an "overdrive" ratio of around .8:1 (Fig. 5). While you are racing, the belt will constantly change position between these two ratios, and the correctly matched drive will keep the engine speed constant at the power peak (9,000 RPM as shown on Fig. 1), while the vehicle changes speed. The overall ratio of the drive is the low ratio divided by the high ratio; in the case of our example it becomes $3/.8 = 3.75$.

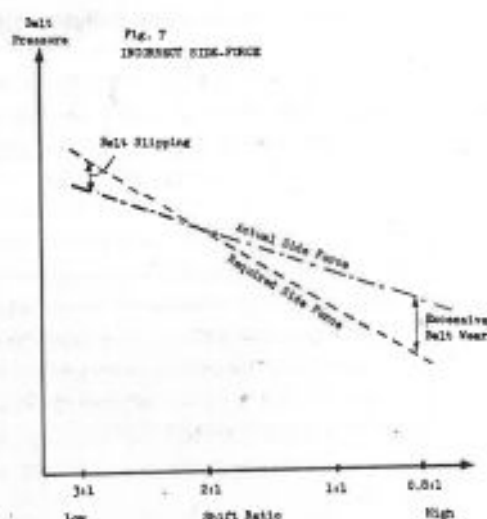
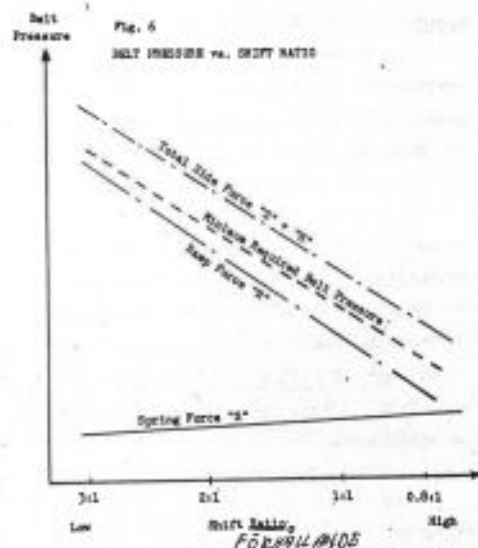
Fig. 3 shows the shift curve of a typical racing engine. The clutch engages at 6,000 RPM and clutches by gripping constantly harder around the belt until the belt is fully engaged in low gear (15 MPH on the graph). With the belt still in low ratio, the engine speed will quickly increase until the power peak at 9,000 RPM, when the centrifugal weights will overcome the spring force and torque feedback in the driven clutches and start shifting the belt while keeping the engine speed at the powerpeak. This is then the ideal shiftcurve on the speed diagram for this engine. After some practice, this diagram will become very useful and give a good understanding of how your transmission works.

The next question is: how do we make the transmission work in this ideal manner, while minimizing the power losses through the transmission? To do this, we have to look at the variables that control the movement of the driven and driving sheaves and therefore the belt position at any time.

Efficiency

The secret to good efficiency lies in the driven sheaves, because their adjustment determines the power losses of the transmission. This may be surprising to some since most of the time is spent working on the driving clutch to match up the transmission but all work on the driving clutch is wasted unless you first have a setting on the driven clutch that will give you a good efficiency and minimum belt wear. Good efficiency is obtained when the side forces on the belt are large enough to transfer the power at any belt position, without slipping the belt. Tighter settings will produce losses from elastic stretch in the belt, and also make it more prone to wear and break. Of course, the bigger and more powerful your engine is, the more side force is required to transfer the power.

Fig. 6 shows the basic forces required on the belt by the driven sheaves for efficient power transmission. The dotted line represents the minimum force required to transmit the torque from a given engine. The higher the power of the engine, the further up on the graph the line would be, but the slope of the line would stay about the same, as it is determined by the shift ratio. The actual requirement does not end up as a nice straight line as in the graph due to changing efficiency through the shift range, but this is a little too complicated at this stage, and we will come back to this point later.



FORMULAS

To produce a total force that is higher than the dotted line becomes the job of the torque ramp and torsion spring in the driven unit. The total force is a combination of the two forces. As the torsion spring gets tighter and provides more pressure as the drive shifts out, this is clearly a tendency in the wrong direction. To compensate, the ratio between the angles on the torque ramp and the radius at which they work produces a force with a slope that, combined with the spring force gives a total force slightly more than the minimum required to transfer the power and with a slope paralleling that of the minimum requirement line. (Maybe you should read that a couple of times). When this is obtained, as in Fig. 6, the drive will work efficiently through the whole range. In Fig. 7 is shown a condition that is far from ideal. Here, the force is too low to begin with, and too high at the end. The result is that the belt may spin slightly to start with and has too much tension in high gear, resulting in loss of efficiency and excessive belt wear. In this particular example, the culprit is a spring with too much rate and too little pre-tension. By increasing the pre-tension you'll get rid of the slipping, but will have even more belt wear and poor efficiency in the high ratio. The correct solution would be to install a different spring with less rate, and use this with higher pre-tension (dotted line). Good efficiency is the result of a well engineered driven unit with the correct combination of spring rate, tension, and torque ramp angle.

Here is where it pays to keep a good eye on the factory racers. It is usually easy to see what ramp angles they are running, and by hanging around when they change belts, you can get a good idea of the pre-tension by watching the effort required to spread the sheaves. Sometimes they may even tell you if you ask, but don't take all information for granted-- it pays to check several fast machines to get a good idea of the settings.

In the back is a data sheet for your use during the clutch-tuning procedure. Be sure to keep a record of the ramp angle and pre-tension on your driven clutch.

OK

OK

OK

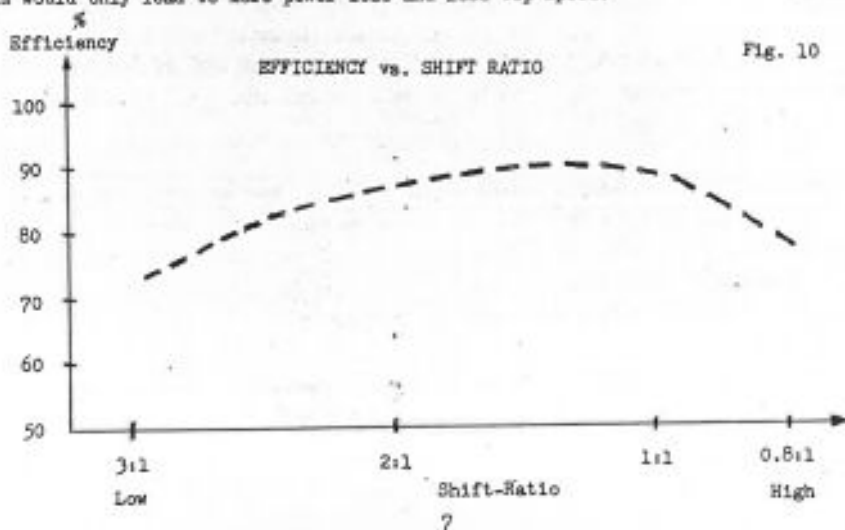


start for the torque-sensing to work. Required pre-tension is usually around 50 - 100 inch-lbs. as measured on the movable sheave, and there are usually several holes available in the hub to give your spring the correct pre-tension. You can measure the pre-tension by attaching a clamp to the movable sheave at a given radius and pull with a spring scale until the torque ramp moves away from the slide buttons. The scale must be at right angles with the radius (see Fig. 9) and you then multiply the radius with the pull on the scale to get your setting in inch-lbs. Increasing the pre-tension will bring the engine speed up before the drive starts shifting, and decreasing the pre-tension will permit the drive to shift at a lower engine speed. The tuning should not be done with the driven components to correct the engine speed, only attempt correcting slipping or excessive belt wear. Too little ^{Pre-tension} pre-tension and too large ramp angle will make the belt slip, while too much pre-tension and too small a ramp ^{angle} will cause increased belt wear. Keep track of the ramp angle and pre-tension for reference during testing. Usually the recommended ramp angle and pre-tension will be given to you by the manufacturer of your machine but sometimes this may not be the latest information.

DRIVE EFFICIENCY CURVE

The typical efficiency of a belt drive transmission is shown in Fig. 10. As the belt starts out in low gear, it has to make a relatively tight turn around the ^{shaft} while there is also relatively small contact area. Combined with the fact that this occurs at the same time that maximum belt pressure is required results in bending forces and distortion on the belt which steals power and reduces efficiency.

As the belt shifts out, it starts running at larger radiuses and the pressure is less. Efficiency then increases until the belt goes past the 1 : 1 range. Now the belt speed has increased considerably as it moves out on the driven sheave. The more times the belt has to bend in a given time, the more power is lost. As the speed increases, the belt also has to turn around a tighter radius on the driven sheave. As a result, when the drive goes into overdrive, the efficiency falls off again. Attention to detail in this area can give quite a gain in top end. It is doubly important not to have too much side tension in high ratio, as this would only lead to more power loss and less top speed.



The Driving Sheaves

While the correct design and adjustments on the driven sheaves determines the efficiency of the transmission system, the driving sheaves must control the engine speed and keep it running on the power curve through the entire shift range. When both systems function correctly and give maximum horsepower coupled with best efficiency, you have a correctly tuned clutch.

The movement of the sheaves and the belt is controlled by flyweight and cam-mechanisms in different arrangements from one design to another. Much of the "tunability" of the clutch system depends on the design of this mechanism and there are advantages and drawbacks to all of them. Basically the systems have to overcome the forces of the pressure spring, and then match the side pressure requirements of the driven plus the torque lost in transmission between the driver and the driven system. The net force required is therefore larger on the driver than on the driven.

To understand the influence of the parts in the driving clutch we should take a look at the jobs the driving clutch has to do. First, the clutch permits a free-running condition which is the engine speed below engagement, to make it possible to start and warm up the engine while the machine is stationary. In the free running condition, the force from the pressure spring is stronger than the force from the centrifugal weight and roller-mechanism, and the movable sheave will therefore not close on the belt.

At a certain engine speed, usually called the engagement speed, the force from the centrifugal weight mechanism will overcome the spring pressure, and the movable sheave will close in on the belt and start to engage it. The vehicle will start moving as the sheaves close harder around the belt until it is fully engaged and no more slip occurs. This is called the "clutching action" and takes place up to 30 MPH depending on engagement, speed, and gearing. The belt is still in the low ratio position in the sheaves, and the engine speed will now increase until the shift-speed is reached. At the shift-speed, the centrifugal forces overcome the tension of the driven sheaves and moves the belt on the driving clutch sheaves.

In a correctly tuned clutch, the shift-speed is at the power peak of the engine and the engine now maintains a constant speed while the belt changes position to increase the vehicle speed.

The point where the belt starts moving out is critical, because until that engine speed was reached an increase in force from the centrifugal mechanism was necessary. But when the belt starts moving out less side force is necessary on the belt to shift it because the torque-sensing mechanism on the driven sheaves feed less side force into the belt as the torque multiplication is reduced when the ratio changes from low gear.

Since the engine is required to stay at a constant speed, the reduction in force can only come from the shape of the flyweight surface working against the rollers in the case of

the Polaris, Comet, Yamaha and Kawasaki clutches or the shape of the shift-can which the fly weight rollers work against in the Arctic and Ski-Doo clutches.

The shape of the can surface then determines how well the side forces on the driving sheaves match with the side forces on the driven sheave, and this determines how "straight" the drive shifts (i.e. how close to a constant speed the engine is kept).

If the transmission does not shift straight, you will be off the power curve at some point in the shift cycle, with a loss in performance as a result. There has been exception to this in cases where it has been desirable to let the engine over-rev temporarily and then shift out at a later point, but the purpose of this is mainly to compensate for bad traction or extremely narrow power curves.

Driving Clutch Components

Pressure Spring

This spring is located around the shaft and spreads the sheaves apart to obtain the free running condition. (See Fig. 8) The installed tension of this spring determines the engagement speed of the transmission. For highly tuned engines, a high engagement speed is necessary because the power falls off quickly at the lower RPM. The higher the installed tension of the spring, the higher the engagement speed. When you change to a spring with higher pressure to increase the engagement speed, the shift speed will also move up, but not in the same proportion as the increase in engagement speed. A stronger spring that moves the engagement speed up 500 RPM may only move the shift speed up 100--150 RPM due to the nature of the centrifugal weights which increase pressure at a rate which is a function of the square of the engine speed. It is important to keep track of which spring you are using, and what engagement speed it gives you combined with your flyweights. This information is generally available from the manufacturers, and should be kept for reference when you start tuning the clutch.

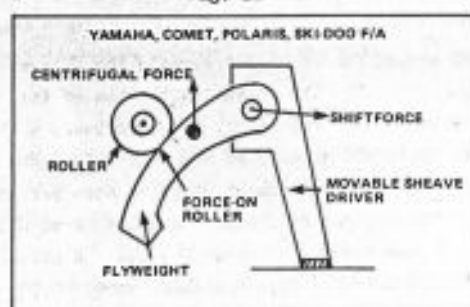
Some springs may take a set and provide less tension after some use. This will lower the engagement speed and shift speed. Rather than changing springs whenever they take a set experienced racers will retune the clutch by taking some weight off the flyweights and use the spring that has already taken a permanent set. Some racers also put new springs in a vise and compress them fully several times to make sure that the spring takes a set before they use them. On newer designs this may not be a problem anymore, but it does not hurt to check overall length of your spring whenever you have the clutch apart to see if it has taken a set.

Flyweight Systems--Polaris, Comet and Yamaha

These driving clutches are basically of the same principle as far as the flyweight arrangement is concerned. Three flyweights are mounted directly on the movable sheave and work against rollers mounted on a "spider" which is fastened to the drive shaft. Movement of the belt is controlled by the weight and shape of the flyweight. The distance of its center of gravity from the center line of the drive shaft and the speed of the engine produces a centrifugal force on the flyweight. How much of this centrifugal force that is transformed into actual side force on the belt is determined by the shape of the flyweight when it works against the roller. (See Fig. 11)

It is important during testing to only change one variable at a time, otherwise you are sure to be confused after a while. Most manufacturers supply a series of flyweights that have the same shape but different weights. When changing flyweights with different shapes, try to go to one with the approximate same weight. When changing flyweights of different weights only use the ones with the same shape. If you go from one flyweight with one weight and one shape, to another with different weight and different shape, you will not know how much of the change was produced by the shape of the flyweight and how much was caused by the weight of it.

Fig. 11



Flyweight mechanism used in Yamaha, Comet-John Deere, Polaris, Ski-Doo F/A, with a stationary roller; the cam surface is part of the flyweight.

Fig. 12

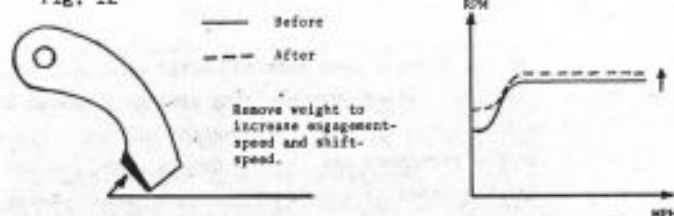


Fig. 13



Remove material for more curvature to bring shiftcurve down to "straight".

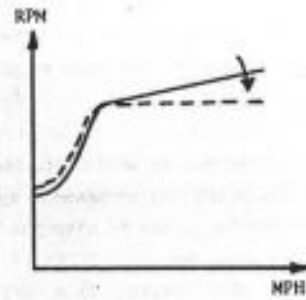


Fig. 14



Remove material to give less curvature to bring shift curve up to "straight".

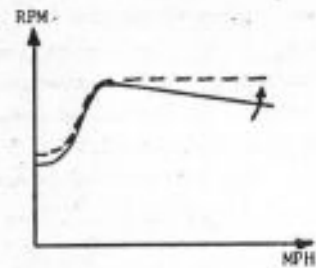


Fig. 15



Remove material to increase engagement-speed only

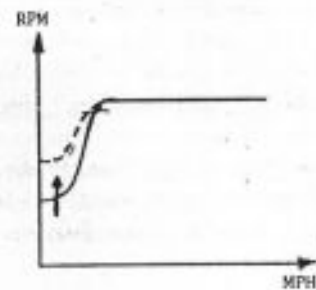
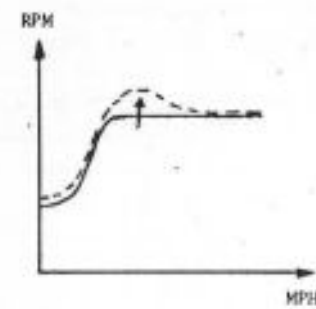


Fig. 16



Remove material to give delayed shifting.



Influence of Weight

The weight of the flyweight is usually given in grams because this is the more accurate and easily understood system. The change in weight is then directly proportional with the number. Going from a 40 gram weight to a 44 gram weight gives you a 10% increase in total weight.

A heavier weight will bring the engagement speed and shift speed down, while a lighter weight will bring the engagement speed and shift speed up. If there is no flyweight available between two sizes to give you the exact shift speed you want, some weight will have to be removed from the heavier set of flyweights. This weight should then be removed from the backside of the flyweight in a small graduation at a time as shown in Fig. 12. Before installing the flyweights again, make sure they all weigh the same $\pm .2$ grams, otherwise the drive will be out of balance.

The Yamaha clutch has a unique system of changing weight. Their flyweights have 3 holes in them. To increase weight, a rivet is added in the hole, increasing the weights until all three holes are filled. For closer details, look in the appendix under Yamaha clutches.

When the shifting surface is ground, it is important that all the arms are ground the same. If not, one arm may swing further out at any given shift position, and this will bring the drive out of balance. To make sure the shift surfaces are the same, the arms should be ground in a fixture that holds them all, and then ground with a belt sander. The final weight should be checked on a scale, preferably of the three-beam design for accuracy.

Influence of Shape, Obtaining "Straight" Shift

The shape of the flyweight determines if you will have a "straight" shift. A straight shift holds the engine exactly on the power peak all through the shift range. To increase the engine speed in a given range, the flyweight must be given less curvature in that section.

Assuming your clutch was in good working condition, and the driven cam angles and pre-tensions were right, but the engine started over-revving as the drive shifted out you would have to replace the flyweight with one with more curvature or grind the shift surface as in Fig. 13.

If the drive started to shift out at the right engine speed, but pulled the engine speed down as the drive shifted out, a flyweight with less curvature is needed, and if none are available, the existing weight can be ground as in Fig. 14.

Changing Engagement Speed

Sometimes there will not be a spring strong enough to give you your desired engagement speed, and the weight has to be modified to obtain the desired speed. This can be done by grinding as shown in Fig. 15.

Another way of changing the engagement speed is to let the flyweight tuck under more to move the center of gravity almost under the pivot pin. It should also be noted that this moves the shift curve if the sheaves are not readjusted to give correct belt clearance on engagement (See specifically under Polaris race clutch adjustments).

Over-speed with Delayed Shift-Out

This modification will let your engine over-rev before it starts shifting the belt, and then shift down to the power peak later in the shift range. Mercury used this on their earlier stock racers to prevent the track from breaking loose on the start and give the vehicle an extra jump coming out of the corners. With the increased traction available with better suspension and studding, this particular modification is somewhat less used these days. To modify the flyweight, a flat is ground in the early portion as shown in Fig. 16.

Grinding Flyweights

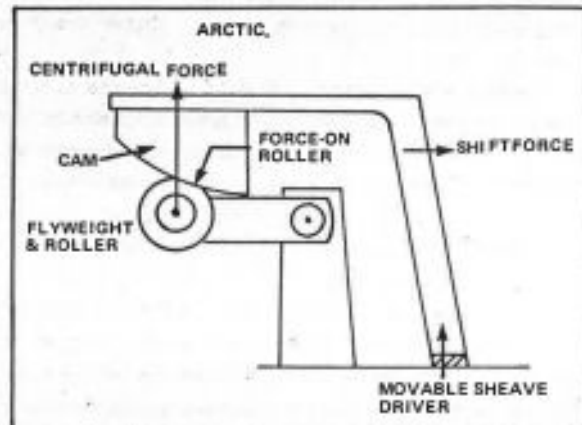
There are a few things to watch for when you start grinding the shift surface on the flyweight. You have to make sure that the finished surface remains flat and parallel with the pivot pin. If this is not the case, there will be bending moments and side-forces on both the roller and flyweights and the bearing surfaces will deteriorate and bind.

Also when the shift surface is modified, material is removed which makes the flyweight lighter and moves the basic curve up slightly. The changes in shape usually have more of an influence in the shift pattern than the weight that was removed, but it is a detail to consider because you are actually changing two variables at the same time.

Arctic Clutches

Everything that has been said so far about transmissions applies to the Arctic model, except for their flyweight system. On the Arctic, the reaction roller is on the flyweight, and the shift cam is mounted in the moving sheave. The advantage of this arrangement is that the cam surface can be changed to give a "straight" shift, without changing the weight of the flyweight. The flyweights can then be calibrated separately by adding small weights to the roller pin, to give an accurate shift speed. Rules for curvature of the shift cam also apply for the Arctic clutch. A large angle with the drive shaft will pull the engine speed down, while a smaller angle with the drive shaft will move the engine speed up. This applies for both engagement speed and shift speed. See Fig. 17. For more specific tuning information see the appendix.

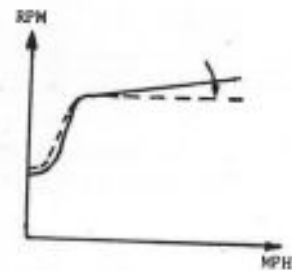
Fig. 17



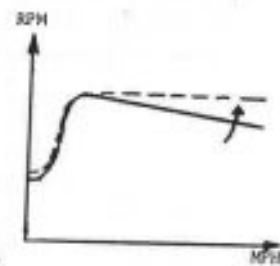
ARCTIC RAMPS



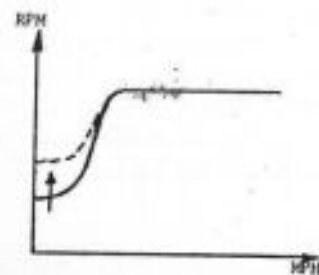
Remove material for more curvature to bring shiftcurve down to "straight".



Remove material for less curvature to bring shiftcurve up to "straight".



Remove material to improve engagement-speed only.



Kawasaki Clutches

Kawasaki's clutch has an unusual design of its flyweight system. Rather than the weight arm starting in the 6 o'clock position and swinging to the 9 o'clock position as in Polaris clutches, the Kawasaki arm starts in the 9 o'clock position and swings to the 12 o'clock position. The weight arm has a bolt-hole in which different bolts and washers can be mounted to change the weight of the arm. Engagement speed is easily changed by grinding the tip of the arm where it first contacts the roller. Modifying to higher speeds can be done by lighter arms, but since the curve of the arm is curving in instead of out it makes it hard to modify the shift-curve itself. For more details on tuning the Kawasaki clutch see appendix.

Other Makes

There are a number of other makes of clutches, but the above mentioned clutches are the most popular for racing. If you should have a clutch that is not one of the makes mentioned the only difference will be in the flyweight mechanism. It is fairly easy to establish the weight portion and the cam surface that controls the shift in any design by some study of the mechanism. Once you have established what the cam surface is and how to influence the weight of the mechanism, the same rules apply as in the mechanisms mentioned. If you understand the previous material in this book, you should also be able to figure out how to influence a new design.

Rollers

The shift surface has to react against a roller to produce the desired force on the sheaves, and the rollers have to rotate freely to make the clutch shift consistently. Correct bearing design is therefore of great importance in a good working clutch.

Bearing materials vary from fancy needle bearing and teflon-coated bronze-backed bushings to fiber bushings and plastic bushings and plain impregnated steel running against the steel pin. The higher the level of performance and the more critical the application, the higher the demand is on the roller bushings. Maintenance of the rollers is therefore of great importance. If the roller stops to roll, the flyweight arm will start to slide on the roller surface, creating a flat spot. This will deteriorate the shift characteristics and harm both the upshift and backshift capability of the clutch.

Sliding Bearings

In order for the movable sheave to move and shift the belt, it has to slide on bearings or bushings on the clutch shaft. These bearings have to be correctly designed and properly aligned to give a smooth shift. In clutches where there are two bearings, one in the movable sheave, and one in the cover, these have to be correctly aligned to work freely and not

bind on the shaft. Polaris, Comet, Yamaha, and Kawasaki are of this design. Yamaha has a particularly interesting design because both bearings can swivel in their housing, and therefore are self-aligning. All designs have to be watched. It is particularly important to watch out for nicks and scratches on the sliding surfaces that would make the bearings hang up or wear prematurely. Excessively worn bearings may give the chance to lock and jam on the shaft or against the torque-buttons or the spider towers as the sheaves get thrown out of concentricity. This will result in poor shift characteristics. To check the condition of the bearings, inspect all the surfaces, then assemble the covers on the clutch without the pressure spring in place. Move the sheaves in and out as they would during shifting and check for slop or areas in which they would stick, and correct this accordingly. All the testing in the world will be wasted if the sheaves stick somewhere in their movement.

Torque Transfer Point

As the sheaves move in and out during the shift, the power or engine torque must in some way be transmitted without binding up the sheaves. In the driven assembly the torque is transferred to the movable sheave through the torque cam and the sliding buttons, and this is now a standard design on all units.

The driving assembly is a different story. There are a number of ways to accomplish the transfer of torque while the sheave is moving. On earlier models the sheave would move on a spline of the shaft, which then also acted as the sliding bushings. As the spline got worn there would be distinct steps forming on the teeth, and the assembly would also get sloppy, resulting in binding on both up and down shifts. Splines are now only found on older clutches as new designs have proven more effective. The next step was to replace the splines with hex or square bushings as in the case of the Arctic Cat and Ski-Doo clutches.

Although these designs work well in most conditions, they partly suffer from the same problem as the splines. They serve two functions both as sliding bushings and torque transfer point. To make matters worse, the radius at which the torque is transferred is rather small, making the force to be transferred large (torque is force multiplied by the radius on which it acts).

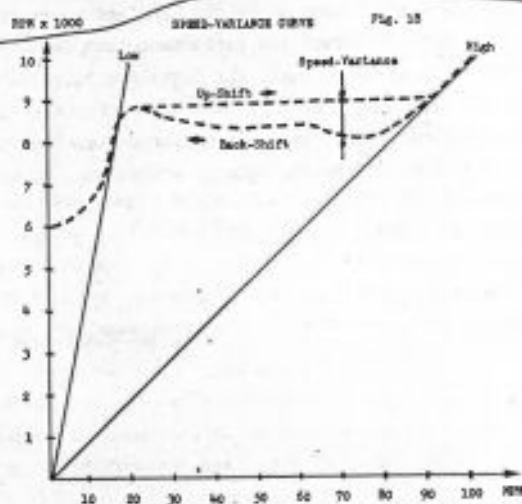
One of the first to recognize this problem was the Polaris engineers. They decided to move the transfer-radius as far out as possible and reduce the function of the bushings to just take care of the sliding motion. To accomplish this, they put plastic sliding buttons on the spider towers where the rollers were mounted. On each side of the tower the buttons would slide against flat machined surfaces. Since the torque transfer point now was at 10 times the radius only one tenth of the force would work on the surface, making it easy to slide and shift the sheaves. With the larger radius, the clutch is also less sensitive to wear on the sliding surfaces, giving it longer and more consistent life. A number of the new clutches now have designs with sliding surfaces on the spider towers, and this is a desirable feature for a racing clutch.

Back-Shifting and Speed Variance Curves

The true test of a good clutch comes when the clutch has to back-shift in response to changing loads or speed. A race driver coming out of a corner, somebody starting to climb a hill or somebody hitting deep loose snow, needs an accurate back-shift pattern. The clutch has to shift down and increase the shift ratio, while maintaining the engine speed for full power. If the moving sheaves are binding when they try to shift back, the engine speed and power will drop and so will the speed of the machine.

There are a number of friction points in a clutch; rollers, flyweights, sliding bushings and torque transfer points all create certain resistance to back-shifting. A certain minimum amount of pre-tension is therefore needed to overcome this friction. As a clutch gets worn, there will be more friction and the clutch will start to perform poorly. It will drop quite a bit in engine speed before the unit reacts. As the friction also is present during the upshift it will require more RPM to overcome the forces. As a result, there will be a difference in engine speed on up and down-shift, and this difference is called a speed variance curve, see Fig. 19.

A good clutch should not have a speed variance of much more than 250 RPM between up and down shift. The older clutches with splines and hex or square bushings are the most prone to develop a large speed variance as they get worn, and they wear faster because of the higher forces they need to transmit and the double function of the bushings. This may not be overly pronounced on a smaller trail sled, but on a race sled it becomes the difference between winning and losing and for this reason the design with a torque transfer point on the spider tower is much preferable. (An exception to this rule is drag-racing, where no back-shifting is required, and the Arctic hex bushing clutch is popular because of its features which allow quick fine tuning.)



When back-shifting deteriorates, some drivers will respond by tightening up the driven sheaves. This will not reduce the speed variance, but rather move the back-shift curve closer to the power curve. This helps during back-shifting, but since the up-shifting curve now moves up and off the power curve on the backside, there is usually a reduction in performance and top speed. Bad back-shifting is a sign that the mechanisms are getting worn and that something is binding, and instead of wrapping the driven sheave tighter, the clutch should be serviced and the worn parts replaced with new ones.

Maintenance

It should now be clear that maintenance is the key to good clutch performance. Belt dust and other particles get in everywhere, bearings wear out and lubrication disappears. Any testing is wasted if something is binding somewhere and for the racer it becomes a matter of routine to inspect and maintain the parts in good working condition.

Alignment

It is very important for performance and belt life that the sheaves are in correct alignment with each other and have the correct center distance. The alignment should be set up correct for the high ratio because this is where the belt speed is highest and misalignment will do the most harm. If the engine is rubber mounted or the chassis flexes, the alignment will change under load. To prevent this, many racers mount a turnbuckle with two rod ends between the engine and the mounting for the cross shaft. See Fig. 20. The correct alignment figures are given by the manufacturer for their units.

Balance

Your driving clutch may reach speeds of 12,000 RPM, and your driven clutch even higher, and small amounts of unbalance may affect the performance and cause severe loads and loss of efficiency. It is therefore important that all parts are balanced as closely as possible.

Most driving assemblies have marks on their components so that they can be assembled in the same relationship each time to keep the balance correct. Sometimes the balance may be changed as when for instance the sheaves are machined true. Some sheaves have cast surfaces that may vary due to die-wear, and these sheaves should then be machined true. This will change the original balance, and the parts should be rebalanced. This can be done statically with a wheel-truing stand or other balance stands such as used for crankshafts. Unbalanced clutches often result in poor shifting, premature wear, and sometimes broken or bent crankshafts.

Correct Inertia

This is a phenomena many tuners are not aware of. Each engine has a natural torsional frequency in the crankshaft assembly, depending upon the flywheel effect (inertia) of the shaft itself and all the parts mounted on it. A natural frequency is what a tuning fork vibrates at when struck against an object. If the torsional frequency of the crankshaft happens to occur close to the power peak of the engine where the clutch has to operate, the result can often be disastrous with clutch parts wearing at astronomical rates and even crankshafts breaking. This often occurs when other than an original clutch is used. The cure is to add or reduce the inertia of other components, usually the flywheel. Yamaha did, for several years, have a wear problem with their SRX clutches until it was traced to be too little total inertia and the problem was cured by adding an inertia wheel to the flywheel. If you feel you have premature clutch wear, wrong inertia may well be your problem.

Gearing

Contrary to popular belief, changing the gearing does not change the shift speed on a correctly tuned and maintained transmission. The main reason to change the gearing is to obtain the best efficiency from your clutch. If you go back to the efficiency curve in Fig. 10, you will find that the efficiency tapers off as you go past 1 : 1 ratio. If you have adequate starts, you should concentrate on gearing such that you are at the top of your efficiency curve when you want to be at your top speed on the end of the straightaway. This means you should generally gear on the tall side. Gearing too low is a disaster on top speed because not only do you have less efficiency at the higher ratio, but as the transmission stops shifting in high, the motor starts revving and falls off the power curve, with even less power as a result. If in doubt, gear high!

The Belt

Today's racing belts transmit over 100 HP with efficiency and consistency. The development of drive belts has been amazing in the last 10 years. It used to be that broken belts were commonplace, and horsepower over 40 almost impossible to transmit.

The earlier belts were made with fiberglass cords which were stiff and had poor adhesion with rubber. Then a new material called Kevlar or Fiber "B" started to make inroads. Engineers found that a 45 gauge Kevlar cord was just as strong as a 90 gauge fiberglass cord and gave the belts much more flexibility.

The use of Kevlar increased both efficiency and strength and is today the only material used in racing belts. Other such factors as special bonding procedure, rubber material and cog design also influence the efficiency and strength of the belt.

To insure efficiency and good power transfer it is important that the sheaves which the belt works on is free from grease, oil or rubber deposits and are smooth. Sheaves should be sanded down at regular intervals with a fine grit emery paper to insure the best working conditions for the belt.

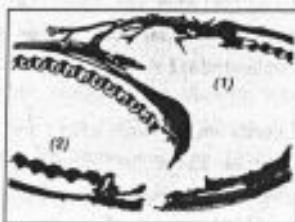
Excessive heat buildup in the sheaves or the air around them adversely affects the strength and the efficiency, and it pays to have the clutch area well ventilated for this reason.

A new belt should be run-in for a short period before it is used for full power. This can be done on a warsup stand or during a short easy run. An experienced race driver will buy at least half a dozen belts at a time and after run-in, measure the length of the belt. Belts made by the same manufacturer may vary as much as $\frac{1}{2}$ " in circumference. Belts of close length are then paired together and the rotating direction and length marked on the belt with a felt tip pen. This insures that once the center distance is adjusted for these belts and you will have more consistency in your selection.

As the sides of the belts wear, it will pull further into the driven sheaves in low gear and loop further out around the shaft on the driven sheave. When this becomes excessive-- $\frac{1}{16}$ " or more wear--, the clearance between the sheave and the belt becomes larger before engagement and the position of the belt puts it in a higher ratio on engagement. The result is that the sheaves slam into the belt with a jerking motion, but since the system is now in "2nd gear", it tends to pull the speed down and bog the machine off the line before it starts to shift out. This can all be corrected by installing a new belt with the correct length and width.

It is important to pay attention to these details as they may make the difference between winning or losing. Always keep a close eye on the belts condition to spot cuts, cracks, frayed cords or other damage. The pictures on the following pages and the drive belt maintenance chart should give you a guideline to solve any of your belt problems.

**Broken Belt/
Flex Fatigue**
Usually caused by
torque loads which
exceed the tensile
strength of the belt.
Note fiberglass
breaks with cords
exposed (1), which
can badly bind in
the clutch. Kevlar
fiber B breaks clean
and is easier to
remove (2).



**Overcord Fabric
Cracking**
Can be caused by
excessive heat,
mechanical damage
or manufacturing
flaw. Overcord will
continue to peel and
separate if not
replaced.





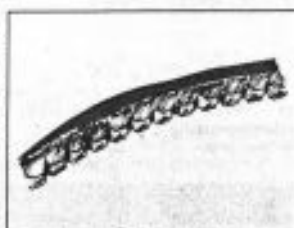
Overcord Fabric Loss
Often associated with edge cord separation, or belt being too long for the drive system, or belt coming into contact with the superstructure surrounding the drive units.



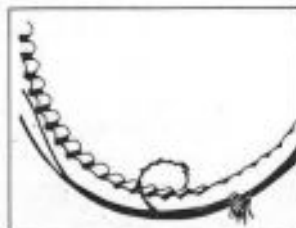
Spin Burn
Caused by excessive slipping of the belt.

**Undercord Cracking/
Cog Loss**
Normal worn-out condition, possibly induced by excessively high operating temperatures.

Severe Sidewall Wear
Caused by misaligned pulch sheaves, loose engine mounts, sheave face damage or use of the incorrect belt size.



Edge Cord Separation
Many causes, including misalignment of pulches, rough sheave faces, incorrect belt-pulley angle which doesn't allow the belt to ride fully on its sidewalls.



Testing

Instrumentation

The tachometer will be your most useful tool when you are working with your transmission. Be sure your tach is of good quality, high accuracy and dependable repeatability. All tachs benefit from good vibration-mounting to provide a steady needle that will give a meaningful reading. You have to make sure your tach is calibrated right, so that you actually read the correct engine speed, otherwise the whole tuning procedure is wasted.

Here is where the factory teams have an advantage. They can calibrate their tachometers with the engine when it is on the dynamometer, to make sure they know where the power peak is, and they do not skimp on the money to get the most accurate and rugged tachs available. One of the best tachs available is the Kroeber, which is used by many of the factory teams both in snowmobile and motorcycle racing. To check that your tach is right, there are several alternatives. One of the best is to use a strobosch aimed at a rotating part of the engine, and check it against your tach reading. Another alternative is to have it checked by an instrument repair shop; there is usually one in every larger city, and your local car dealer may be able to direct you to one near you.

To check your top speed at the end of your test strip, a speedometer is useful to observe any gain. There are factories that like to use a radar unit to check top speed but this is many times inaccurate and the results should be used with caution.

Timing lights are useful if you can afford them. Other useful equipment if you operate

DRIVE BELT MAINTENANCE CHART

The Problem	Causes	Treatments
1) Drive belt runs off one side on pulley	a) Pulley misalignment b) Over engine RPM c) Excessive belt speed	a) Align pulleys b) Reduce engine RPM c) See Operator's Manual
2) Belt glazed excessively or has baked appearance	Excessive slippage caused by: a) Insufficient pressure on belt sides b) Excessive horsepower for belt and converter c) Excessive oil on pulley surfaces d) Insufficient pre-load on driven spring e) Excessive operation in low gear position	a) Check driver pulley for smooth actuation b) Consult dealer c) Check bearing seals and clean pulley surfaces d) Consult Operator's Manual e) Inspect converter
3) Belt worn narrow in one section	a) Excessive slippage b) Rough or scratched pulley surface c) Excessive belt speed d) Converter not functioning properly	a) Check driver pulley for smooth actuation b) Grind or polish pulley c) Consult dealer d) Replace belt
4) Belt worn narrow in one section	Excessive slippage in driver pulley caused by: a) Locked track b) Converter not functioning properly c) Engine idle speed too high	a) Rotate track by hand until free b) Repair or replace converter c) Reduce engine RPM
5) Belt runs off one side on pulley	a) Pulley misalignment b) Excessive belt speed c) Excessive ride-out on driver pulley d) Incorrect belt length	a) Align pulleys b) Reduce engine RPM c) See Operator's Manual d) See Operator's Manual
6) Concave worn belt side(s)	a) Excessive ride-out on driver pulley b) Drive misalignment c) Rough or scratched pulley(s) surface d) Excessive slippage	a) Repair or replace driver pulley b) Align pulleys c) Grind or polish pulleys d) Repair or replace driver pulley
7) Belt runs off one side on pulley	a) Excessive slippage b) Excessive belt speed c) Excessive ride-out on driver pulley d) Incorrect belt length	a) Check driver pulley for smooth actuation b) Align pulleys c) Consult dealer d) Inspect converter
8) Belt "flip-over" at high speed	a) Pulley misalignment b) Excessive belt speed c) Excessive ride-out on driver pulley d) Incorrect belt length	a) Align pulleys b) Reduce engine RPM c) Repair or replace driver pulley d) See Operator's Manual
9) Belt runs off one side on pulley	a) Pulley misalignment b) Excessive belt speed c) Excessive ride-out on driver pulley d) Incorrect belt length	a) Align pulleys b) Reduce engine RPM c) See Operator's Manual d) See Operator's Manual
10) Flex cracks between cogs	a) Considerable use, belt wearing out b) Bent pulley(s) flange causing belt flutter c) Excessive operation in low gear position d) Extremely low temperature	a) Replace belt b) Repair or replace pulley c) Inspect converter d) Warm up belt slowly
11) Unusual noise, vibration, or shock	a) Considerable use, belt wearing out b) Bent pulley(s) flange causing belt flutter c) Excessive operation in low gear position d) Extremely low temperature	a) See Operator's Manual b) Check drive components c) Replace bearing
12) Broken belt	a) Engagement RPM too high b) Belt hanging up in bottom of driven pulley c) Locked track	a) Reduce engagement RPM b) Belt too short; replace c) Rotate track by hand until free

with megabucks are a magnetic speed pickup monitoring engine speed and sending via a radio to a chart recorder. This is strictly factory R & D equipment, and not all that practical on the race track. A good tach, trained eyes and ears and a good seat of the pants feeling are many times better tools.

Influence of Engine Performance on Shift Speed

Due to the torque sensing feature of the driven sheaves, the engine output will influence the shift speed. The drive will shift at a slightly higher speed when the engine is cold and has good torque, than when it becomes warm and loses some power. To compensate for this, make sure you make all your tests when the engine is warmed up. Also make some test runs on race day if possible, because the engine will produce more power on a really cold day and this may have to be compensated for. Changes in altitude will also change the shift speed as the engine loses power at higher altitudes and a recalibration may be necessary.

Test Area

To test your transmission, you need a test area. What you should look for is a flat, straight piece of land which will permit you to make a run of at least 1/4 mile. The test procedure consists of a drag run from standing start, while you keep one eye on the tach. Since you will be watching the tach most of the run it is important that there are no obstacles in the area that can get you in trouble.

Procedure

1. Find out at what engine speed your engine is supposed to operate at maximum performance.
2. Establish what approximate engagement speed you want to run.
3. Draw a speed diagram with the above information for your reference during testing.
4. Make sure all parts of the transmission are working freely, that the transmission has the correct alignment, and that you are using a good drive belt.
5. Make sure you are using the recommended ramp and pre-tension on the driven sheaves for best efficiency.
6. Make notes of what exact parts are in your transmission before the test run.
7. With the vehicle standing still, increase the engine speed until the vehicle starts moving, and note the engagement speed.
8. Make some runs to warm up the engine.
9. Make four full acceleration runs from a standing start and observe where the transmission starts shifting out, and the shape of your shift curve (does it hold the engine at a constant speed from approximately 30 MPH, or do the RPM's increase or decrease as the transmission shifts out).

10. Compare the tach readings with the desired shift curve and make the required judgement of what variable to change in the driving clutch to approximate the desired curve. Use the earlier chapters for reference. First get the approximate weights and springs for your desired engagement speed and shift speed, then find the combination of shift cam that gives you a straight shift, then fine tune the weight of the flyweights to give you the correct shift speed. Change only one item at a time, and make notes of your changes as you go along.
11. When your clutch is tuned right for the particular given driven settings; time yourself for several runs.
12. Now experiment with a different driven setting and go through another tuning procedure to match the driver for this setting. Then time this new combination to see if you have gained in performance, compared to the previous setting.
13. When you have established your best driven combination for efficiency, also try some higher and lower shift curves, to establish if the power curve on your particular engine differs from the given information. (Try 250 and 500 RPM below and above the point where your power peak is supposed to be.)

This is basically the procedure the factory racers go through and it takes a lot of time and patience. After some testing you will become familiar enough with your unit to get a good feel for the variables, and be able to come close to the desired result fairly quickly.

Summer drag racing is an excellent place to learn the basics about clutches, because the testing procedure is practically a drag race.

There is no substitute for testings, and those who do their homework will have a better and more efficient transmission working for them.

Polaris

The Polaris clutch system is quickly gaining popularity and reputation as the "Hot Set-up" for racing. This reputation is well earned as their clutches have a number of outstanding features, and generally can show a higher efficiency through the shift range and particularly on top end. This all translates into more power to the ground.

It is hard to put the finger on exactly what component is responsible for the good efficiency, but more than likely, it is a combination of all the design factors being proportioned together correctly. It is not advisable to adopt only part of the system to your machine as any compromise may lose you efficiency and power.

If you want to do it right, use all Polaris components, both driver, driven and their belts. The conventional driver can be used successfully for racing but the RXL driver has several features which come in handy when racing. These features include a spider which is mounted on a spline rather than screwed on. This makes it possible to remove the whole moving sheave assembly and switch it for another one with different settings between heats by only removing the center bolt. The racing clutch also has adjustable engagement speed and the movable sheave can be spaced to keep a .020" clearance with the belt by use of spacer rings between the spider and the shaft.

The driven sheaves also have a collection of ramps including 30, 32, 34, 36 and 40° which make it easy to tune these clutches to almost any engine size. The flyweights also come with two different curvatures, one for a mildly tuned stock motor and a different curvature for race motors.

We highly recommend that the racing weights be used for modified engines. For a selection of weights, see the weight chart. There is also a good number of springs available with a selection of pretensions and spring rates. Between the flyweights and the springs, and a selective amount of grinding on the flyweight arcs, the Polaris clutches offers a "tunability" that is not easily duplicated by other brands. The following information for the RXL clutch is included to illustrate the tuning features of the racing clutch.

CLUTCH TUNING

Drive Clutch Engagement RPM Adjustments. The RXL drive clutch has three (3) set screws located on the movable face. These set screws control the positioning of the three shift weights in their relationship to the center of gravity.

Before the machine is run, the position of the set screws and shift weights must be checked to ensure they are all equal, Fig. 2. Measure from the tail of the shift weights to a reference point on the movable face. Adjust the set screws so that the distances from the tail of all weights to the reference point are equal, Fig. 2, A.

Clutch engagement should be as low as possible without creating an engine bog, usually approximately 5,500 – 6,000 RPM. When the engagement is as low as possible, the track will have a chance to "hook up" and initial acceleration off the starting line will be increased.

To adjust the engagement RPM, turn all three set screws in or out an equal amount. Turning the screws in will decrease the engagement and adjusting the screws out will increase the clutch engagement RPM, Fig. 2. NOTE: As the set screws are turned in, the neutral position of the clutch is decreased and further adjustments may be required.

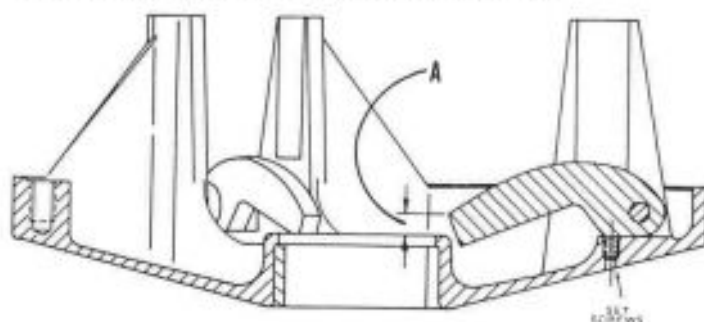


Fig. 2

3. Adjustment of Clutch/Belt Neutral Position. The distance between the belt and the movable shoe on the drive clutch is very critical. This distance controls the starting ratio (lowest starting ratio is preferable) and also controls the position of the clutch weight to engine RPM. The distance between the belt and movable shoe should be approximately .020", Fig. 3. This adjustment is controlled by the set screws on the movable face and the spacers under the spider.

The drive clutch will be assembled with a .250" spacer, part number 5010139, under the spider. The thickness and part numbers of the additional spacers are:

.270"	5010140
.290"	5010141
.310"	5010142
.330"	5010143

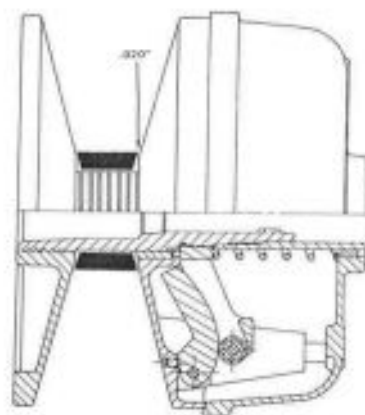


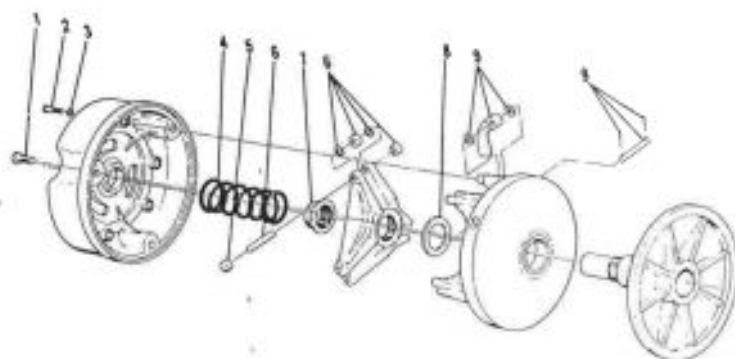
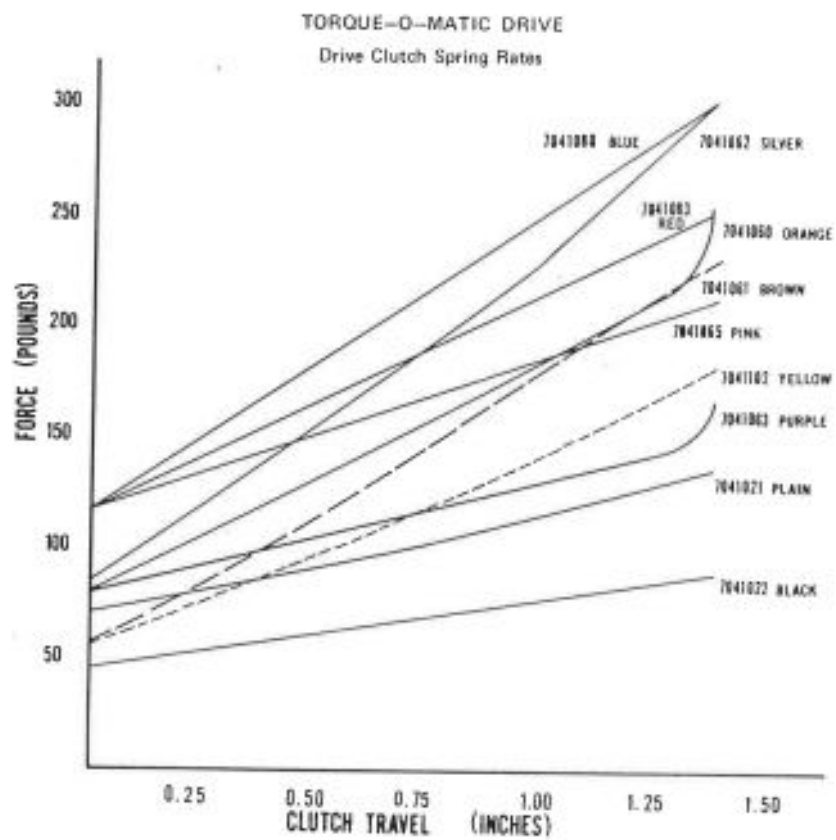
Fig. 3

Final Engagement and Neutral Position Adjustment

1. When the set screws are turned to lower or raise engagement, check the movable shoe/drive belt clearance. If the set screws are turned in to lower engagement, a thicker spider spacer may be required to maintain the .020" desired shoe/belt clearance. If the set screws are turned out to raise the engagement, a thinner spacer may be required. When making the above adjustments, it would be to your advantage to use a belt with the same outside circumference and width. This will always be of some benefit to you as less fine tuning will be required if a belt of the same dimension is used every time a belt is replaced.

POLARIS FLYWEIGHTS FOR 1973 THROUGH 1980

<u>Identification No.</u>	<u>Weight in Grams ± 1.0 Grams</u>	<u>Polaris Part No.</u>
Stock Flyweight Curvature		
'00'	53	5630174
'0'	50.5	5610088
'A'	47.5	5610080
'B'	43	5610084
'G'	41.5	5630063
'X'	40	5630117
'W'	37.5	5630109
'X-1'	37.5	5630121
'Y'	35	5630139
'U'	34	5630107
Racing Flyweight Curvature		
'N'	54	5630080
'H'	50	5630063
'M'	47	5630068
'P'	42	5630089
'K-1'	40	5630144
'Q-1'	38	5630146
'R-1'	36	5630147
'L-1'	34.5	5630145
'L-1' Ground	33.5	5630177
'T-1'	32.5	5630148
'Z-1'	29.5	5630151



1977 MODEL CLUTCH AND DRIVE DATA

MACHINE MODEL	ENGINE MODEL	SPROCKET RATIO	CHAIN PITCH/TYPE	CENTER DISTANCE MM inches	CLUTCH PART NO.	WEIGHT LETTER	WEIGHT GRAMS	SPRING PART NO.	SPRING COLOR & WIRE DIAMETER
Gen 244	EC2SP	13/15	84/35-2	281.84 11.1	1321312	G	41.5	7041963	Purple 180
Gen 250	EC2SP	15/16	84/35-2	281.84 11.1	1321306	W	37.5	7041963	Purple 180
Gen EC 250	EC2SPM-21	13/15	84/35-2	281.84 11.1	1321298	G	41.5	7041966	Orange 196
Electra 250	EC2SP	13/15	84/35-2	280.81 12.15	1321315	B	40	7041965	Purple 180
TX 250	EC2SPT-27	13/15	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321308	W	37.5	7041962	Silver 208
Gen 340	EC4SPM-43	13/15	84/35-2	281.84 11.1	1321309	A	47.5	7041960	Orange 196
Gen 340	EC4SP	15/16	84/35-2	280.81 12.15	1321311	B	40	7041963	Purple 180
TX 340	EC4SPT-80	13/15	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321307	B	40	7041965	Pink 177
TXL 340	EC4SPL-41	15/16	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321313	G	41.5	7041965	Pink 177
Electra 440	EC4SP	13/15	84/35-2	280.81 12.15	1321315	B	40	7041963	Purple 180
TX 440	EC4SPT-2500	15/16	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321308	A	47.5	7041960	Orange 196

1978 MODEL CLUTCH AND DRIVE DATA

MACHINE MODEL	ENGINE MODEL	SPROCKET RATIO	CHAIN PITCH/TYPE	CENTER DISTANCE MM inches	CLUTCH PART NO.	WEIGHT LETTER	WEIGHT GRAMS	SPRING PART NO.	SPRING COLOR & WIRE DIAMETER
Gen 244	EC2SP	13/15	84/35-2	281.84 11.1	1321312	G	41.5	7041963	Purple 180
Gen 250	EC2SP	15/16	84/35-2	281.84 11.1	1321306	W	37.5	7041963	Purple 180
TX 250	EC2SPT-27	13/15	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321308	W	37.5	7041962	Silver 208
S/S 340	EC3SPM-3204N	13/15	84/35-2	281.84 11.1	1321298	A	47.5	7041960	Orange 196
Cobra 340	EC3SPM-04	15/16	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321318	A	47.5	7041963	Purple 180
TX 340	EC4SPT-80	13/15	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321307	B	40	7041965	Pink 177
TXL 340	EC4SPL-42	15/16	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321313	G	41.5	7041963	Pink 177
Cobra 440	EC4SPM-01	13/15	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321314	B	50	7041922	Black 140
TX 440	EC4SPT-20	15/16	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321308	A	47.5	7041960	Orange 196

1979 MODEL CLUTCH AND DRIVE DATA

MACHINE MODEL	ENGINE MODEL	SPROCKET RATIO	CHAIN PITCH/TYPE	CENTER DISTANCE MM inches	CLUTCH PART NO.	WEIGHT LETTER	WEIGHT GRAMS	SPRING PART NO.	SPRING COLOR & WIRE DIAMETER
Gen 244	EC2SP	13/15	84/35-2	281.84 11.1	1321312	G 18 Mod	41.5	7041963	Purple 180
Gen 250	EC2SPM-01	15/16	84/35-2	281.84 11.1	1321298	G 18 Mod	41.5	7041966	Orange 196
Apollis 340	EC3SPM-03	15/16	84/35-2	281.84 11.1	1321298	A	47.5	7041960	Orange 196
Cobra 340	EC4SPM-04	15/16	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321318	A	47.5	7041963	Purple 180
Cobra 440	EC4SPM-01	13/15	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321318	B	50	7041922	Black 140
TX 250	EC2SPT-07	13/15	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321308	W	37.5	7041962	Silver 208
TX 340	EC4SPT-05	13/15	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321324	B	40	7041182	Yellow 192
TX 440	EC4SPT-06	15/16	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321326	A/P	47.5	7041183	Yellow 192
TXL 340	EC4SPL-02	15/16	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321327	B	40	7041962	Silver 208
Sentinel	EC5SPL-01	15/16	84/35-2	280.8 12.0	1321328	A	47.5	7041963	Pink 177

Comet

The Comet clutch system is manufactured by Hoffee Industries in Richmond, Indiana. Hoffee is the lone U.S. survivor as a supplier of drive systems to the snowmobile and accessory industry. This is undoubtedly due to their flexibility and good product quality. The most popular clutch for the performance minded individual is the 102-103 series. This unit is not unlike the Polaris clutch with three flyweights working against rollers mounted to a stationary spider. The torque transfer point is located on the spider towers where plastic buttons slide against flats in the movable sheave. With a good assortment of springs and flyweights available, the Comet clutch has been a good choice for race drivers and in the 78 and 79 Sno-Pro season it also saw extended use by the Arctic Cat and Ski-Doo factory teams.

On the following page is a grouping of the flyweights presently available for the 102-103 unit. Comet starts out with a number of base weights such as E, C, B, F, U, R, W, K, and A-1. By machining these weights to be lighter or by machining a flat or half-moon in the engagement area for a modified or aggressive take-off, a group of flyweights are formed.

Comet also offers two different cam-shapes on the flyweight, a normal radius for trail machines and a more aggressive smaller radius for the special applications. The flyweight group, name, part number, thickness, weight, engagement profile and cam profile are all listed to aid you in selection of the correct flyweight for your application. Samples of some of the configurations are shown, as well as information on the pressure springs available.

The driven unit has three basic ramps available, 27°, 34°, and 45° and also springs with different tensions. (Red is stock and an orange spring No. 203123 with less tension is available as a special part.) Spring tension on the driven unit can be varied by using any one of 4 mounting holes, and by rotating the movable sheave on the cams 30°, 90° or 120°. (See chart for desired tension)

PRE-TENSION AND CALCULATED RATES OF POPULAR PRESSURE SPRINGS

Spring Color	Part No.	Wire Size	Coils		Pre-tension at 2 3/8	Rate
				O.D.		
Red	203839	.187 4.74	4	2	15 lbs	144 lbs/in
Pink	203473	.177 4.49	5	2	42 lbs	80 lbs/in
Blue	204287	.177	4	2	47 lbs	100 lbs/in
Black	204115	.187	5	2	74 lbs	115 lbs/in
Yellow	203475	.187	4	2.06	87 lbs	160 lbs/in

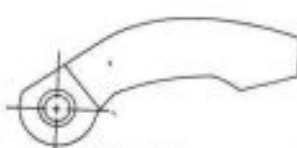
25.4

COMET CAM ARM CONFIGURATION

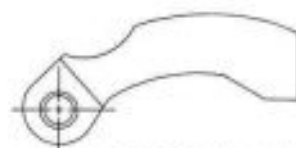
Group	Arm	Part #	Engagement	Thickness	Weight	Cam Profile
E	B	203089	Normal	.25 6,35	40.0	Normal
E	M	203906	Aggressive	.25	38.5	Normal
C	C	202892	Normal	.25 = 6,35	44.5	Normal
C	N	203911	Modified	.25	44.2	Normal
C	HE-3	205385	Aggressive	.25	43.5	Normal
C	D	203088	Normal	.25	42.3	Normal
C	P	204247	Modified	.25	42.0	Normal
C	Z-1	207422	Modified	.24	41.0	Normal
C	Z	207400	Modified	.24	37.0	Normal
C	Z-2	207439	Modified	.24 - 6,07	35.0 325	Normal
B	B	202550	Normal	.25	44.0	Aggressive
B	L	203837	Modified	.25	41.0	Aggressive
F	P	203082	Normal	.31 7,87	53.5	Normal
F	HE-1	205353	Modified	.31	53.2	Normal
F	HE-2	205357	Normal	.31	52.5	Normal
DETIX F	TTI	205137	Aggressive	.31	48.0 C 20	Normal
U	U	205169	Normal	.38 9,53	63.5	Normal
U	U-1	207753	Modified	.38	62.0	Normal
U	Q	206911	Aggressive	.38	57.0	Normal
R	R	205249	Normal	.38	58.5	Normal
R	R-1	207674	Normal	.38	57.5	Normal
R	X	207270	Aggressive	.38	57.2	Normal
R	HE-4	206995	Modified	.38	55.5	Normal
W	W	205257	Normal	.37 9,39	59.5	Aggressive
K	K	203378	Normal	.31 7,87	50.0	Aggressive
K	HE-5	207818	Modified	.31	48.5	Aggressive
A1	A1	207689	Normal	.32 8,12	48.5	Extra Aggressive



Normal Engagement



Modified Engagement



Aggressive Engagement

MODIFYING AND ADJUSTING THE 100D DRIVEN UNIT

The illustrations shown here are for reference only. They are provided here to explain more graphically the modification and adjustment of the 100D Driven unit.

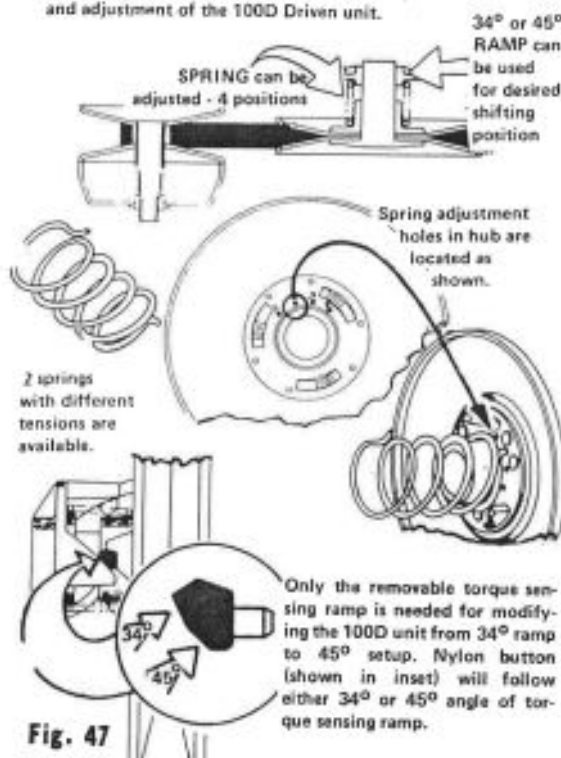


Fig. 47

ADJUSTING THE SPRING TENSION OF THE 100 D

NOTE: By increasing the spring tension of the torque sensing system . . . the power ratio of the system (Driver and Driven) can be held longer at higher engine r.p.m.'s before it is overcome by the clutch driver.

To shorten the time required for the driven member to attain it's speed ratio, DECREASE the amount of spring tension of the torque sensing cams. This will allow the r.p.m. of the drive clutch to overcome the power ratio of the driven unit at a faster rate in a lower r.p.m. range.

Select the amount of tension desired from the chart then follow steps 1 thru 6 as shown here.

POUNDS OF SPRING TENSION DESIRED	USE SPRING TANG HOLE AS SHOWN	ROTATE MOVEABLE SHEAVE AS SHOWN	MOVEABLE SHEAVE WILL SNAP BACK AS SHOWN
*22 LB.	4	160°	120°
*20 LB.	3	160°	120°
*16 LB.	2	130°	90°
*12 LB.	1	130°	90°
* 8 LB.	4	70°	30°
* 6 LB.	3	70°	30°

*This is an approximate measurement of resistance in lbs. of tension that will be realized from the outside radius of the sheave diameter.

ADJUSTMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR 100 D UNIT

STEP NO. 1:

If possible, it is best to adjust the driven member while it is on the driven shaft of the machine. If this is not possible, then place the fixed sheave, post up, with the movable sheave in place as shown, on a table or sturdy bench and secure the fixed sheave by having someone hold it or by some means of clamping. NOTE: USE EXTREME CARE IF THE CLAMPING METHOD IS USED TO AVOID DAMAGE OR DISTORTION TO THE UNIT.

STEP NO. 2:

Install the movable sheave onto the splined post.

STEP NO. 3:

Insert the spring tang into the desired hole (1-2-3-4) of the movable sheave as per chart directions.

STEP NO. 4:

Place the fixed cam at the very top of the fixed sheaves' post. Press down to barely engage the splines of the post & cam.

STEP NO. 5:

Holding the fixed sheave (with clamp or by hand), rotate the movable sheave counterclockwise the number of degrees desired according to chart.

STEP NO. 5A:

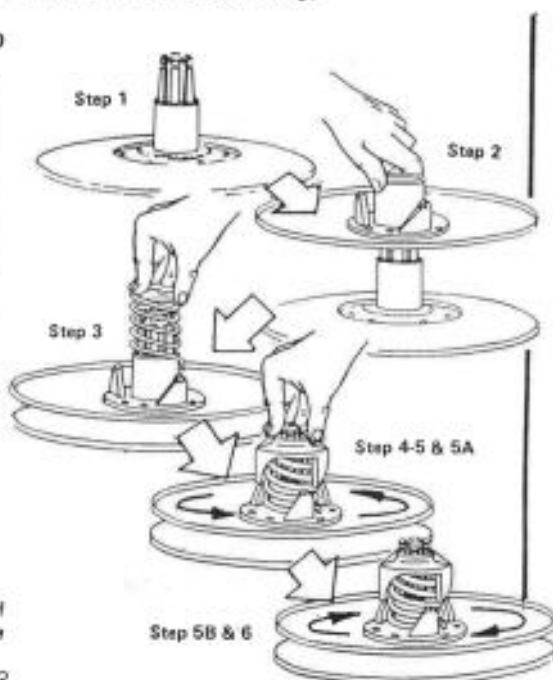
Hold the movable sheave in position and press down to engage splines completely - fixed cam will have to be below the groove in splined post for lock ring.

STEP NO. 5B:

Insert two piece snap ring into slot provided on splined post.

STEP NO. 6:

Allow movable sheave to "snap-back" (Clockwise) into its operational position (see chart for number of degrees the sheave will rotate with each setting.)



Yamaha

The Yamaha SRX clutch design follows in the footsteps of the Polaris and Coast clutches as far as basic design. It has 3 flyweights working against rollers in the spider tower. The torque transfer buttons sit on separate arms on the spider. This clutch has several nice features. The flyweights have 3 holes in them, and by adding rivets to these holes, you can change the weight of the flyweight. Depending on where you add the rivets, you can also concentrate the pressure towards the lower or higher part of the shift range. The spider is mounted on splines which make it possible to take the whole movable assembly off and put on another one with lighter or heavier weights just as with the Polaris race clutch. Another nice feature is the sliding bushings which are mounted to float in their housings, thereby making it difficult to misalign the bearings and wedge the floating assembly on the shaft.

There are two driven assemblies that can be used with this clutch. The SRX clutch has two ramp angles available. One ramp is a straight 42 degrees, and the other has a double angle 39 to 45 degrees. The older GPX driven clutch is also popular for modified use. This clutch has the ramp at a larger radius and since the leverage ratio then is reduced, the ramps come with 33° or 27°. These ramps give the same result as the steeper ramps on the SRX driven clutch.

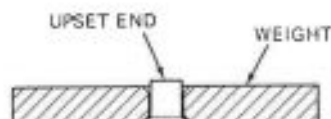
The SRX has somewhat unjustifiably gotten a reputation for poor reliability. Recent development has, however, pointed to insufficient flywheel mass as the culprit. This lack of inertia caused high-frequency vibrations in the clutch which then would wear out the bearings. Yamaha now has a "fix" for this problem, an inertia flywheel that can be bolted on the flywheel itself to increase its mass. This takes care of the wear problems and should give Yamaha owners substantially better service from this clutch.

GRIND OFF ENGAGEMENT
NOTCH FROM STANDARD WEIGHT



To install a new rivet, fit the rivet into the weight and peen over the upset end.

CAUTION: Check the weight for possible cracks after removing or installing rivets.



PRIMARY SPRINGS--SRX, EX, AND GPX (listed in order of spring rates)

PART NUMBER	SPRING CONSTANT	PRELOAD	COLOR	WIRE DIA.	OUTSIDE DIA.	NUMBER TURNS	FREE LENGTH	
90501-50351-00	1.40	40	yel-grn	5.0	54	5.3	90.1	GPX-G 5,000 rpm
90501-55230-00	1.50	65	red-silv	5.5	54.5	6.5	104.8	GPX433F GYT Kit
90501-55340-00	1.75	25	blu-pink	5.5	54.5	5.8	75.7	SRX opt. 4,000 rpm
90501-50447-00	1.75	30	pink-wht	5.0	55	4.4	78.6	EX440A
90501-55343-00	1.75	30	red-blue	5.5	55	5.8	78.6	SRX opt. 4,000 rpm
90501-55241-00	1.75	35	red-pink	5.5	55	5.8	81.5	SRX338/433 std.
90501-55403-00	1.75	40	yel-wht	5.5	54.5	5.75	84.4	EX440
90501-55225-00	1.75	45	red-grn	5.5	55	5.8	87.2	Tuning part
90501-55296-00	1.75	55	grn-pink	5.5	55	5.8	92.2	Tuning part
90501-55419-00	1.80	42	brn-wht	5.5	55	5.5	84.8	SRX340 5,000 rpm
90501-55404-00	1.80	49	org-wht	5.5	55	5.5	88.2	SRX440 5,000 rpm
90501-50446-00	2.0	15	brn-wht	5.0	55	4.1	69	EX340A
90501-55456-00	2.0	30	silv-wht	5.5	55	5.5	77.3	SRX550A std.
90501-55467-00	2.0	50	red-org	5.5	54.5	5.0	93.0	SRX440A modified
90501-55242-00	2.0	60	red-org	5.5	55	5.4	91.5	SRX338F GYT Kit
90501-55356-00	2.0	64	blu-silv	5.5	55	5.4	93.5	SRX-G GYT Kit
90501-50396-00	2.0	20	grn-wht	5.0	55	4.1	71.5	SRX340 std.
90501-55345-00	2.05	20	red-red	5.5	54.5	5.3	71.3	SRX-G std.
90501-55397-00	2.22	24.5	red-wht	5.5	55	4.5	72.5	SRX440 std.
90501-55388-00	2.40	40	blu-wht	5.5	54.5	4.9	78.2	EX340
90501-55485-00	2.5	30	brn-wht	5.5	55	4.5	73.5	SRX440A improved

SECONDARY SPRINGS

90508-45287-00	4.32kg-m/deg	blue	4.5	64.5	9.05	120mm	EX340
90508-45301-00	4.86kg-m/deg	silver	4.5	64.5	8.05	120mm	EX440
90508-45286-00	4.86kg-m/deg	yellow	4.5	64.5	8.05	85mm	SRX340/440
90508-40341-00	4.86kg-m/deg	white	4.0	64.5	5.05	85mm	SRX440A

CLUTCH WEIGHTS

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

8A7-17632-01-00	Stock 440	Moderate engagement cutaway-slightly heavier than 8A8
8A8-17632-01-00	First 340	Moderate engagement cutaway-slightly lighter than 8A7
8A8-17632-10-00	New stock 340	Extreme engagement notch
8A7-17632-70-00	Modified 440	No engagement cutaway
8E7-17632-00-00	EX 340/440	No engagement cutaway-very heavy
8F2-17632-01-00	SRX 440A	Extreme engagement cutaway

There are two (2) ramp sets available for the secondary clutch, they are:

PART NUMBER	RAMP ANGLE
8A5-17624-01-00	42 degrees
8A7-17684-01-00	39-45 degrees

Rollers:

12mm diameter--	90387-06606
14mm diameter--	90387-06560
SPIDER SHIM--	90214-30014
Clutch Weight Rivets	
thick weights--	90261-06015
thin weights--	90261-06016

Arctic Cat

As this is written, Arctic is in the process of developing a new line of clutches, presumably based on the Polaris and Comet designs. We will, however, take a look at the Arctic hex bushing clutch, as it is still very popular as a performance clutch, especially in drag racing. The popularity is due to the easy tuning of this clutch. The torque is transferred through hex bushings in the sheave and cover of the floating assembly. The spider only holds three sets of arms with rollers and weights mounted on them. These rollers roll against cams fastened to the movable assembly. This makes it possible to work on the rasp configuration first, to get a straight shift and a desirable engagement speed. Fine tuning to get the exactly correct shift speed is then accomplished by changing the weights on the roller assembly.

There are a number of roller and arm assemblies available. For modified motors working at higher RPM, only small rollers and light stamped arms should be used. For slower turning motors, cast arms and larger rollers are used. Arctic has available a blank rasp, part number 0146-253 for the purpose of grinding custom ramps. A rasp holder should be used when you grind the ramps, to make sure all surfaces come out even and prevent an unbalanced clutch. Small differences in rasp contour can give large differences in RPM and shift pattern.

A number of springs are available for the Arctic clutch to give desirable rates and pre-tension. In addition to the springs in the chart, Aasen Performance Parts now has available a "Cold" spring. This spring has the same rate as the green spring, but an 85 lb. pre-tension for higher engagement speed. Also available is a set of weights from 1 to 10 grams in one gram steps, a rasp grinding block, and extra long high quality hex bushings.

CLUTCH RAMPS AVAILABLE FROM ARCTIC ENTERPRISES

Part No.	cc	Clutch Kit
0146-228	250	0146-248
0146-251	340	0146-249
0146-252	440	0146-250

	Part No.	Spring Rate (lb/in.)	Spring Comp. (@ 1.25 in.)	Spring Length (No Load)	No. Coils	Color Code
LIGHT ↑	0146-055	22.5 - 27.5	67.5 - 87.5 lb	4.35 in. + 0.25	5.1	White
	0146-313	43	70 - 84 lb*	4.00 in. + 0.100	5.15	Red
	0146-067	45 - 53	145 - 165 lb	4.35 in. + 0.187	5.35	Yellow
	0146-005	54 - 62	170 - 190 lb	4.34 in. + 0.156	5.2	Unpainted
HEAVY ↓	0146-068	60 - 66	123 - 137 lb*	4.35 in. + 0.156	5.0	Green

*at 2.187 in.

CLUTCH RAMP CONTOUR VARIABLES

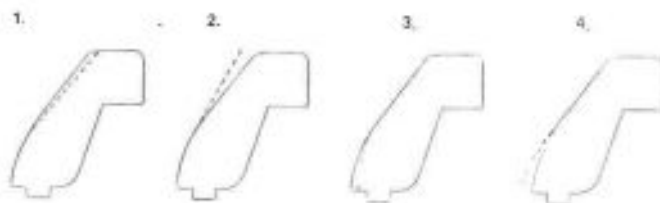


Figure 1. Ramp cut back at top more than stock ramp. Engine will run lower peak RPM with same weights and spring.

Figure 2. Ramp not cut back as far as stock ramp. Engine will run higher RPM with the same weights and spring.

Figure 3. Ramp cut back at bottom more than stock ramp. Engagement speed will increase when using same weights and spring.

Figure 4. Ramp bottom not cut back as far as stock ramp. Engagement speed will decrease when using the same weights and spring.

CLUTCH WEIGHTS AVAILABLE FROM ARCTIC ENTERPRISES

	Part No.	Outside Diameter	Weight in Grams	Clutch Kit Part No.	Weight Color Code
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1; border-left: 1px solid black; margin-left: 5px; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; top: -10px; left: 5px;">Light</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: -10px; left: 5px;">Heavy</div> </div> <div style="flex: 1; text-align: center;">↑</div> </div>	0146-227	0.400 in.	1.0 Alum.		N/A
	0146-225	0.463 in.	1.5 Alum.	0146-248	N/A
	0146-226	0.521 in.	2.0 Alum.	0146-248	N/A
	0146-159	0.377 in.	2.5	0146-248	White
	0146-108	0.406 in.	3.058	0146-248/249	Yellow
	0146-175	0.437 in.	3.725	0146-248/249/250	Red
	0146-135	0.471 in.	4.479	0146-249/250	Black
	0146-178	0.500 in.	4.675		Green
	0146-107	0.491 in.	4.958	0146-250	White
	0146-279	0.511 in.	5.457		Black
	0146-106	0.530 in.	5.958	0146-250	Red
	0146-278	0.549 in.	6.475		Black
	0146-123	0.568 in.	6.992		Yellow
	0146-105	0.598 in.	7.858		Black
	0146-136	0.644	9.27		Green
	0146-104	0.665	9.75		White
	0146-166	0.684	N/A		Red

Kawasaki

In 1978, Kawasaki introduced their new Invader snowmobile, and with it a completely new drive clutch system. This clutch has three flyweights mounted on a spider working against rollers in the movable sheave assembly. The torque transfer point is on separate arms on the spider that works against plastic inserts in the movable sheave. The flyweights start out at a 9 o'clock position and swing up to a 12 o'clock position as the drive shifts up. Weight can be calibrated separately as the flyweights have a mounting position for bolts which can be stacked with washers. For less weight, an aluminum bolt is also available.

Because of the inward curve of the flyweight, it is harder to change the shift curve than on conventional flyweights, especially since it turns out that in most cases adding material would be the ideal procedure.

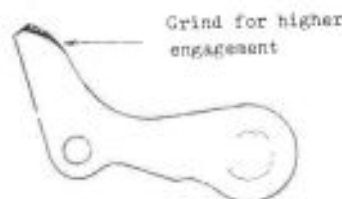
The engagement speed is easy to change, however, by grinding the engagement area on the tip of the weight more parallel with the crankshaft as shown in the accompanying drawing.

1978 models came with a "C" weight. This weight was not heavy enough on the end and would swing too far over in high range with a quickly diminishing force. This resulted in too little pressure on top end. In 1979, Kawasaki introduced the "E" weight. These weights were narrower with more weight on the end on the bolt. The shift curve was also moved up .025" which reduced the swing and gave more leverage on top end.

The 1978 clutch had roller assemblies with excellent teflon-coated bearings. In 1979 Kawasaki changed these and took out the teflon bearings. These new rollers did not work out well and it is recommended to use the older 78 rollers with the better bearings. The Kawasaki driven unit is also a well designed unit with all the necessary adjustments available. There are three holes in the movable sheave and two in the can for the torsion spring, and this gives a possibility of six torsion settings. A 35° ramp is standard, but a 30° ramp for higher altitudes is available.

NOTE: To increase top end RPM move spring to position C-2, which increases twist to 180°. To decrease top end RPM move spring to A-2 (120°) or A-1 (90°) decrease of twist. See Chart below.

A-1	= 90°
A-2	= 120°
B-1	= 120°
B-2	= 150°
C-1	= 150°
C-2	= 180°



Kawasaki Springs

Color	Free Length, mm	Lbs. at 34.5 mm
Yellow	100.5	144
Blue	105.2	155
Black	110.1	166
White	120.4	188

Kawasaki Flyweights

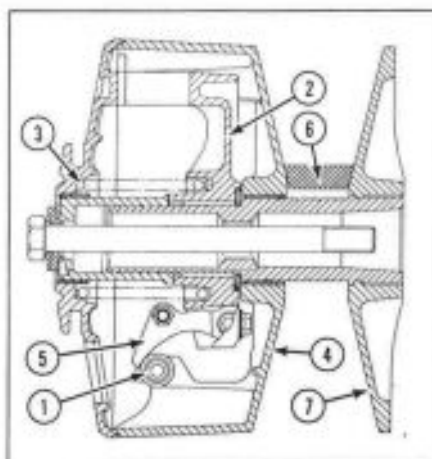
Name	Weight	Configuration
C	51.7	Original 78 weight, aggressive start, light on top end
C'	50.7	Same as C but lighter
E	47.5	79 ramp, lighter weight, used with heavier bolts. Better top end
F	46.5	Revs more in beginning, good top end

Calibration Weight Information

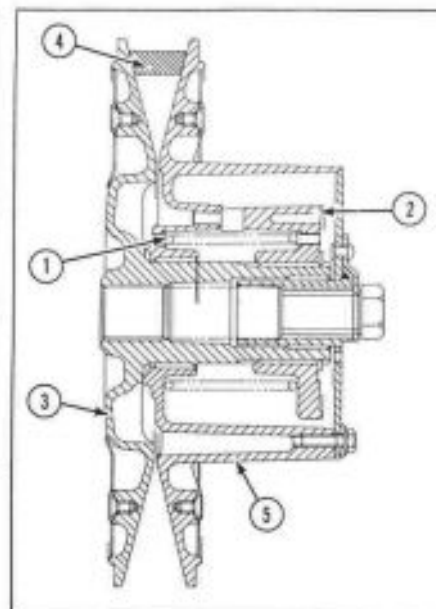
Thick washer: 1.6 grams Thin washer: .8 grams Nut: 2.4 grams

Bolts

Aluminum 20mm: 2.1 grams Aluminum 15mm: 1.8 grams Steel 28mm: 7.3 grams
Steel 20mm: 6 grams Steel 16mm: 5.3 grams



1. Roller
2. Spider Assembly
3. Spring
4. Movable Sheave
5. Weight Ramp
6. Drive Belt
7. Stationary Sheave



1. Spring
2. Ramp
3. Movable Sheave
4. Drive Belt
5. Stationary Sheave

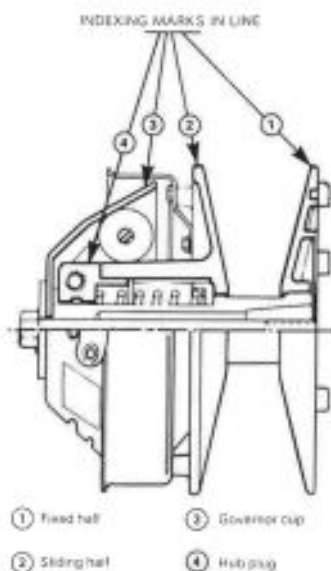
Ski-Doo

Ski-Doo has had their square bushing clutch available for a number of years. Like the Arctic clutch, the torque is transferred through a bushing on the shaft, this one square instead of a hex as on the Arctic. The original square bushing clutch had arms with rollers that acted as flyweights. The rollers acted against a curved cover, and the curve on the cover would give the desired shift force. Once the cover was stamped it was hard to change, which gave little possibility of fine tuning for racing.

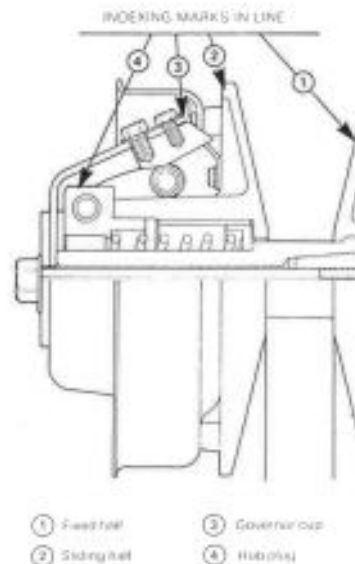
Ski-Doo went a step further and improved on the tunability of the clutch by mounting three ramps in the cover. These ramps could be ground to different configurations to give higher engagement or more correct shift speed. These clutches are still in use on many Ski-Doo models although the racing team has changed to Comet clutches because of the improvement in backshifting and response this clutch gives over the square bushing design.

The die-cast driven unit is of a good quality design with interchangeable ramps and springs and should be well suited for performance machines.

Rollers against cup

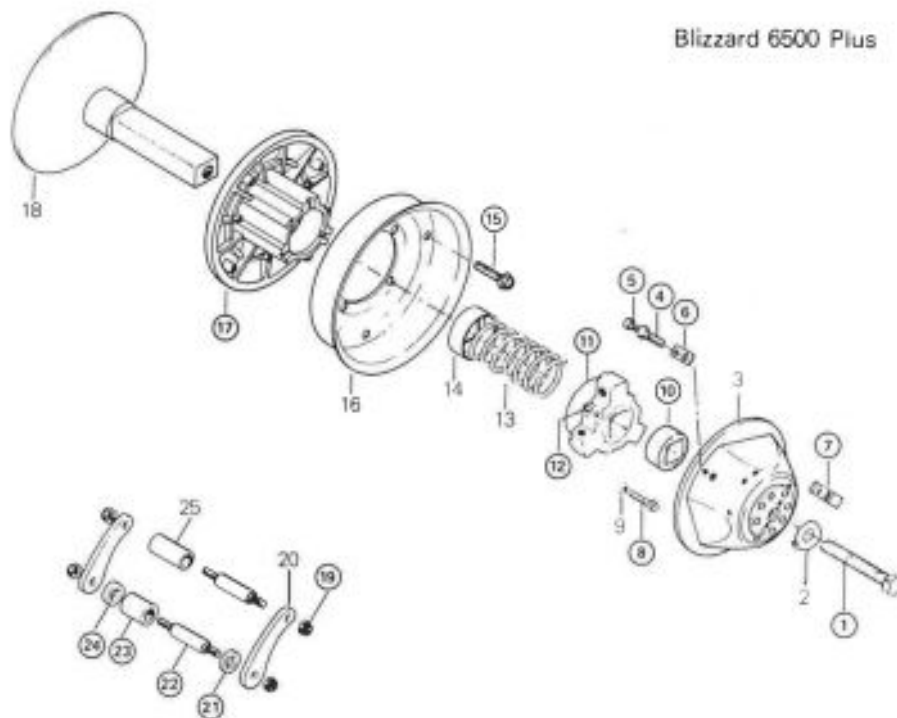


Rollers against cams



SQUARE SHAFT WITH THREE COUNTERWEIGHT ASSEMBLIES

Blizzard 6500 Plus



1. Retaining bolt
2. Locking tab
3. Governor cup
4. Bolt
5. Bolt
6. Locking tab
7. Ramp
8. Bolt
9. Internal tooth lockwasher
10. "Duralon" bushing
11. Hub plug
12. Allen screw
13. Spring

14. Spring seat
15. Bolt
16. Guard (rollers)
17. Sliding half
18. Fixed half
19. Nut
20. Counterweight
21. Nylon washer 5.1 mm (.200")
22. Shouldered pin
23. Roller
24. Nylon washer 3.3 mm (.130")
25. Bushing

TRANSMISSION TUNING DATA

Date _____ Sheet No. _____ Test Track _____

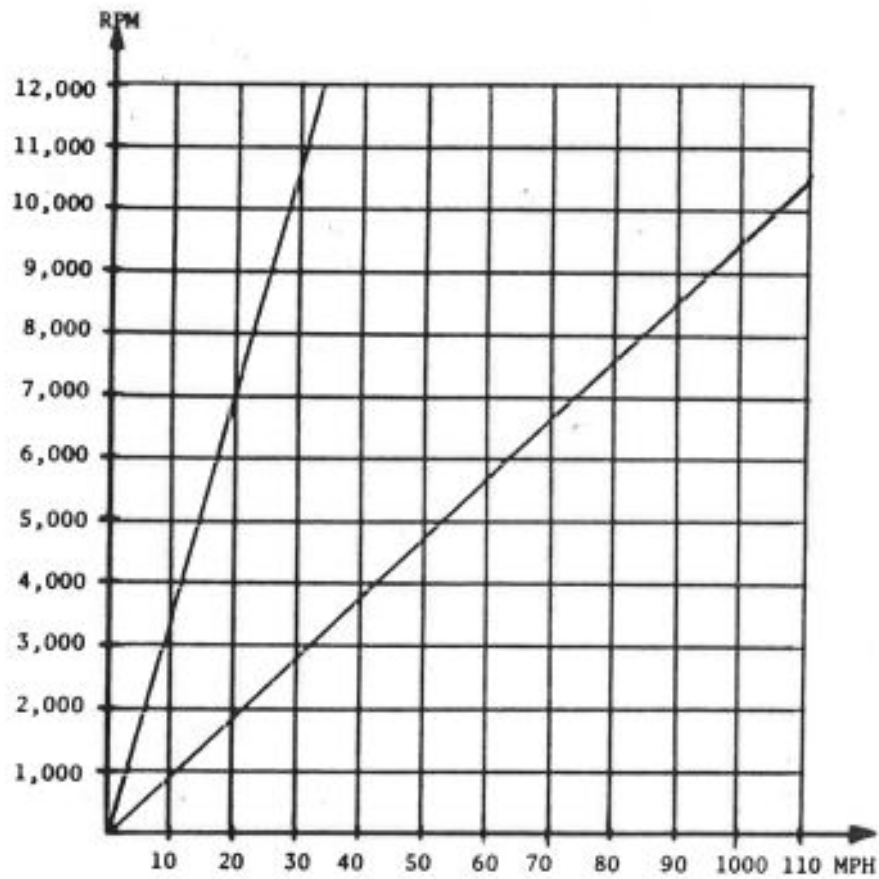
Surface Conditions _____

Vehicle Type _____ Transmission Model _____

Center Distance _____ Gearing _____

ITEMS	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 4
<u>DRIVEN</u>				
<u>Ramp Angle</u>				
<u>Spring Designation</u>				
<u>Pretension</u>				
<u>DRIVER</u>				
<u>Spring Designation</u>				
<u>Flyweight Designation</u>				
<u>Shift-Cam Surface</u>				
<u>BELT</u>				
<u>Brand</u>				
<u>Length</u>				
<u>SHIFT INFO</u>				
<u>Engagement Speed</u>				
<u>Shift Speed</u>				
<u>Over-run in Low</u>				
<u>Shift Speed Increase</u>				
<u>Shift Speed Decrease</u>				
<u>Average Time of 4 runs</u>				
<u>Comments</u>				

SPEED DIAGRAM
ENGINE SPEED VS. VEHICLE SPEED



ENGAGEMENT SPEED = _____ RPM

SHIFT-SPEED = _____ RPM

DRIVER

PRESSURE SPRING _____

FLYWEIGHT _____

DRIVEN

RAMP ANGLE _____

PRETENSION _____

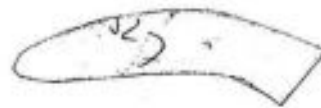
notes



329

Fjæden silver
114 mm

Rems 32,5 1117 mm Längd
414-3558





"Our Reputation Is At Stake"

25 YEARS IN BUSINESS

It may not seem like a lot, but in the performance business, where new companies fold as soon as their first good idea got outdated, it is a milestone worth considering. We have grown because we stress development of new products to stay ahead of the crowd and at the same time build these products with the quality that is demanded by today's snowmobiler.

That is why we back up our products with extensive testing both on the dynamometer, in the field, and on the race track. We are happy that our products have gained such quick acceptance, and we are excited about squeezing more horsepower out of both trail machines and racers with our pipes, carburetors, and expertise in porting.

Getting the power is only half the story; getting it to the

ground is the other half. That is why we complement our products with extensive instructions on any changes required to get the most out of the machine, like jetting, clutching, and gearing. We also offer a full line of traction products to make sure you hook up, like the innovative Kicker stud which mounts directly under the slide rail and instantly became the hot setup for factory racers and drag racers alike when it was introduced three seasons ago.

Our research and development never stops, and that is why you will see our name at local grass and ice drags and at International Sno-pro races testing and developing new ideas. No matter how much engineering and testing is done on the dyno, the final test is how well it works on the track and that's why we stay involved. With us the phrase "racing improves the end product" is not just a slogan, it's a hard fact and benefits you directly no matter what level of performance you seek.